

25X1A2g

PROCESSED

F 34357

Members of the Czechoslovakian Republican Farmer Party, living in exile here in the United States of America and dispersed over the world, are very happy to be able to join also in extending congratulations to the American Republican Party to the greatest victory in the history of the United States of America. We are very eager to take part in the great fight being conducted by the American people with the other Free-European nations against communism and for the liberation of all suppressed people.

At this time, we would like to take the opportunity to inform the American public about the history and activity of the Czechoslovakian Republican Farmer Party.

The Czechoslovakian Republican Farmer Party was founded in 1896 first as a political party of the farmers to protect their own interests. Very soon, however, the part met with a vivid response in all classes of the nation and thus it became the national political party. Its out and out democratic policy had started already in the Austrian-Hungarian monarchy and after the achievement of the general right to vote in 1906, the party became the strongest Czechoslovakian political party in the Vienna parliament. The Czechoslovakian farmer, Frantisek Stanek, was elected chairman of the club of the Czechoslovakian representative in the Austrian parliament. He, in 1917, fearlessly brought forward the declaration of the independence of the Czechoslovakian nation in the Austrian parliament. In 1918, when the independent Czechoslovakian republic had been created the Republican Farmer Party was very well prepared politically, economically and culturally. The chairman of the Republican Farmer Party, Antonin Svehla, was one of the leading persons who prepared and led the underground movement which resulted in the national revolution on October 28, 1918. This act was performed without a single drop of blood and also without any enmity toward any nation, race or religion and thus the first real Czechoslovakian democracy was founded.

In 1918, Antonin Svehla, the chairman of the Republican Farmer Party held the office of the Ministry for Interior. In 1922, he became Prime Minister and served in that capacity until illness forced him to retire in 1929 and he passed away in 1933. After him, three other members of the Republican Farmer Party (Udrnal, Malypetr, hodza) became Prime Ministers. Thus, the first Czechoslovakian republic was led for almost 18 years by Prime Ministers who were members of the Republican Farmer Party. At the same time, the most important offices of the Ministry (Interior, Agriculture, Defense, Education) had been headed also by members of the Republican Farmer Party.

It has been our honor and pride that during the time when the Republican Farmer Party was holding the most important offices of the State, the Czechoslovakian Republic was one of the most outstanding European States, particularly from the cultural, economic and social standpoint. During that time, from 1918 until 1938, the Czechoslovakian Republic solved the most important social, economic and national problems. In 1920 and 1921, already, the extensive land reform had been carried out in accordance to the most liberal principles which are today suggested

25X1A2g

This unevaluated information for US Officials

your national interest

warrant dissemi-

by the US for those countries where the land reform has not yet been settled. Other important social problems such as the old age and invalid insurance of the laborers was solved.

One of the most democratic significant acts which was achieved under the leadership of the Republican Prime Minister Svehla was the national settlement and the agreement with the German minority and partly with the Magyar minorities in Czechoslovakia. Thus, in 1926, three largest German political parties, representing the overwhelming majority of the Germans living in Czechoslovakia, became active in the Czechoslovakian government where they remained until the 1938 Munich (Hitler) decision. This Munich decision spelled the end of Czechoslovakia independence.

During the occupation by the German-Nazis, the members of the Republican Farmer Party belonged to the biggest out and out opponents and fighters of the reckless occupants and oppressors. All underground movements were either led or supported financially and morally by the members of the Republican Farmer Party. During the Nazis persecution many of the leading members of the Republican Farmer Party were put in prison, concentration camps and many of them were executed. The main reason for the execution of the members of the Republican Farmer Party was for their active part in the underground movement against the Nazis. In 1945, after World War II, the Czechoslovakian government was overtaken by the so-called National Front, created according to the Kosice program, which was prepared already in Moscow. By this act, the real and still valid Czechoslovakian Democracy was changed into the People Democracy. This lampoon of a real democracy has actually been the beginning of the largest disaster in the history of the Czechoslovakian people. During the administration of this National Front, which in fact has been a government of the communist-socialist block, the human rights have been suppressed, the laws and morals completely upset and the democracy replaced by force and dictatorship. Revenge and vengeance dominated against all who opposed and fought against Marxianism and Communism. Confiscation of properties, socialization, expropriation especially of industrial and agricultural possessions, without any compensation, suppression of the private enterprising, all these led very soon to an absolute frustration of the Czechoslovakian economy, once so famous and prosperous. Therefore, the main aim of the ruling National Front has been to suppress all the opponents of its regime. By the Kosice program the three most important non-socialist Czechoslovakian political parties (the Republican Farmer Party, the National Democratic Party and the Middle Class Political Party) was disbanded and prohibited and their properties confiscated. The Republican Farmer Party has been the largest Czechoslovakian political party and together with the National Democratic Party and the Middle Class Political Party they represented approximately 70% of the Czechoslovakian electors.

As a result of the political vengeance, all the leaders of the Republican Farmer Party have been arrested by the National Front Government and kept for years in prison without any legal reason. Finally all of them were proven innocent and set free excepting the chairman of the Republican Farmer Party, Rudolf Beran, who has been sentenced to 20 years of hard labor. His sentence was based on the alleged collaboration with Nazis, notwithstanding the fact, he was imprisoned by the Nazis and sentenced by them to 10 years in prison for illegal underground activity against the Nazis. The trial of Rudolf Beran was a mockery, an incredible violation of the law and the heaviest crime of justice.

In the elections in 1946 the Communist Party became the strongest political party with approximately 38% of all the votes. Other political parties had 62%. In February 1948, the Communist coup d'etat followed without any public resistance of the

political parties which collaborated with the Communists since 1945. With the exception of the courageous manifestation of some thousand students, not a single politician took an active part against the Communists, although the majority of Czechoslovakian people hated Communists. There were millions of courageous people who would have opposed with force against the Communist coup d'etat, but there were no courageous leaders who would have undertaken the opposing action among non-communist members in the National Front of the Czechoslovakian politicians.

After the communist coup d'etat in February 1948, the majority of the non-communist members of the National Front except those who remained in the government with the communists, escaped from Czechoslovakia. Also, very many members and some leaders of the Republican Farmer Party left the country illegally and already on the 28th of September, 1948, they re-established the Republican Farmer Party in Exile in Paris.

When the Czechoslovakian representation in Exile, the so-called Council for Free Czechoslovakia, had been formed, the Republican Farmer Party, after some delay, had also been invited to take part. The Republican Farmer Party accepted immediately the invitation and became member of the council. The results of the activity of this council, however, have been very poor. The meetings of the council were mostly consumed by fruitless discussions concerning personal and political party matters. The creators of the National Front and the collaborators with the Communists in 1945 until 1948 took hold of the ruling in the council and, of course, such a structure and ruling could not have been of a long duration. It broke in 1951 after long and unworthy discussions and struggles.

In April 1952, a new council for Free Czechoslovakia was founded, however, by no means in a democratic way. Only two political parties, the National Socialist Party and the Slovak Democratic Party, worked out the mutual agreement and the other political parties had to accept it.

The good will of the Republican Farmer Party which has striven to create a united and really democratic Czechoslovakian representation in Exile failed in its endeavor.

Who are the leaders of the incomplete Council for Free Czechoslovakia of today?

We want to mention only two of them here. Dr. Peter Zenkl, who is chairman of the Council and Chairman of the National Socialist Party, and Dr. Hubert Ripka, who is the Chairman of the Section for Foreign Affairs of the Council, and also a member of the National Socialist Party.

Dr. Zenkl was in Czechoslovakia the Deputy of the Prime Minister C. Gottwald, today the Communist president of Czechoslovakia.

Dr. Ripka has been one of the biggest admirers of Soviet Russia and one of the main authors of the Czechoslovakia-Soviet Russia agreements.

This is just a small sample of the previous activity of these representatives of the Council for Free Czechoslovakia. Both of them worshipped Stalin, celebrated and honored the Soviet Army, took an essential part in decision about refusal of Marshall Plan for Czechoslovakia, transferred Karpato-Ukraina and the uranium mines in Jachymov to the USSR. These men who are essentially responsible for the catastrophic disaster of our nation, want to lead the affairs of our nation again, they want to lead the Czechoslovakian people in Exile.

We wish to inform the US public about the former activity of these and other Communist collaborators by the publishing of their declarations and opinions published by them just recently. We consider that by this way only we can inform the US public which not only represents the highest class of the democracy, but which also sacrifices everything possible, even the blood of their sons, to liberate the nations suppressed by Communism.

The one side political activity of these socialist leaders and leaders of the Council for Free Czechoslovakia is evident also in very important US institutions. As an example, the Czechoslovakia desk of the radio for a Free Europe in New York and Munich should be mentioned. Both these institutions are led and dominated by the Czechoslovakian socialists, although according to the results of all really democratic elections in Czechoslovakia, the Czechoslovakian people have been 70% non-socialists.

The Republican Farmer Party is fully aware of the earnestness and responsibility which has been overtaken by this memorandum. They decided to do that after a long lasting consideration. The Republican Farmer Party never publicly defended itself against assaults made by the socialist political enemies, which often used dishonest and false methods in blacking the leading members of the Republican Farmer Party, calling them fascists, nazis, reactioners, etc. The Republican Farmer Party considered it as unworthy to answer such deliberately untrue and dirty calumny.

The decision of today to inform the highest officers of the American Republican Party has been dictated not only by our duties and responsibility to our poor nation but not with less regard to the US democracy, which made it possible for us to live here freely. The Czechoslovakian Republican Farmer Party has the same aims as the US democracy in the fight against Communism, the biggest enemy of the culture, laws, liberty and the real democracy of the free people.

*Republican Farmer
22-54.1 Party*

*Czech
132*

TYPE ACT-DATE INFO-TFR-DATE AREA

- 53 -